

Filed for intro on 04/11/2002

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 642
By Burks

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend the Tennessee Technological University Men's Basketball Team and Head Coach Jeff Lebo on another outstanding season.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause in its deliberations to recognize those outstanding teams of young men and women who display courage and diligence and attain excellence in the realm of athletics; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy team is the Tennessee Tech Men's Basketball Team, which recently completed another stellar season with an impressive record of twenty-seven victories against only seven losses, including a perfect 15-0 record at home in the Eblen Center; and

WHEREAS, the Golden Eagles, en route to their third consecutive winning season, earned their second consecutive Ohio Valley Conference Championship with a conference record of 15-1; and

WHEREAS, after suffering a one-point loss in the OVC Tournament Championship Game, Tennessee Tech gained a berth in the 2002 National Invitational Tournament; and

SJR0642

01377685

WHEREAS, the Golden Eagles were victorious in three NIT games, including their first ever victory in post-season play in a home win over Georgia State University and road victories against the University of Dayton and Yale University to earn a bid in the NIT Elite Eight; and

WHEREAS, in the Elite Eight, Tennessee Tech was matched against in-state foe and eventual 2002 NIT Champions, the University of Memphis Tigers; playing at the Pyramid in Memphis, the Golden Eagles were defeated by the Tigers in a closely fought battle; and

WHEREAS, at the conclusion of the game, the pro-Memphis crowd of 8,000 proudly cheered the Golden Eagles for their valiant effort in the game, as they had advanced farther in the NIT than any other OVC team in history; and

WHEREAS, a fundamentally sound team, Tennessee Tech led the OVC in scoring offense, scoring margin, rebounding margin, opponents' field goal percentage, scoring defense, three-pointers made, three-point shooting percentage and field goal shooting percentage; and

WHEREAS, in addition to leading the OVC in these categories, Tennessee Tech was highly ranked nationally in several categories, including being ranked 17th in winning percentage, 23rd in scoring, 16th in scoring margin and 5th in field goal shooting percentage; and

WHEREAS, the Golden Eagles finished their second consecutive twenty-win season by winning 22 of the last 25 games and securing the nation's second longest home winning streak at 29 games; and

WHEREAS, this remarkable team also set numerous records this season, including a school and OVC record for wins; at one point in the season, they owned the nation's second longest winning streak at twelve games; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Tech Golden Eagles Basketball Team is composed of gifted athletes, several of whom have earned individual honors for their outstanding performances; and

WHEREAS, Damien Kinloch is one such noteworthy Golden Eagle; he earned numerous distinctions, including being named to the NABC District 7 All-District Team, seven-time OVC

Newcomer of the Week, First Team All-OVC, and OVC Newcomer of the Year; he also led the OVC in rebounding and was ranked among the OVC leaders in scoring and field goal percentage; and

WHEREAS, Cameron Crisp also earned several honors for his meritorious service to the team, including being named Second Team All-OVC; in addition, Cameron compiled a 22-3 record as the team's starting point guard and led the OVC in three-point percentage; and

WHEREAS, Brent Jolly was named to the Verizon District 4 Academic All-America Team and Third Team All-OVC; he led the OVC in free-throw percentage and ranked in the OVC's top ten for three-point shooting percentage and three-pointers made per game; and

WHEREAS, Co-Captain Joey Westmoreland provided outstanding leadership for the team and earned OVC All-Tournament Honors; and

WHEREAS, the Golden Eagles pride themselves on teamwork, each player placing the needs of the team above individual honors and personal concerns; and

WHEREAS, the outstanding members of this team are Seniors, Adonis Hart, DeAntoine Beasley and Joey Westmoreland; Juniors, Damien Perkins, Greg Morgan, Leigh Gayden, Brent Jolly, Damien Kinloch, and Antywon Jones; and Sophomores, Jason Harrell, Cameron Crisp and Ahmad Richardson; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Tech Men's Basketball Team is inspired to greater heights by an outstanding coaching staff led by Head Coach Jeff Lebo; and

WHEREAS, in his four seasons at Tech, Coach Lebo has won 75 games and two Ohio Valley Conference Championships; and

WHEREAS, a former University of North Carolina All-American and a student of the legendary Dean Smith, Coach Jeff Lebo earned his first post-season tournament berth as coach in 2002; and

WHEREAS, one of the most highly respected young coaches in basketball, Jeff Lebo was named NABC District 7 Coach of the Year and he has been selected as Ohio Valley Conference Coach of the Year for each of the past three seasons; and

WHEREAS, Coach Lebo is supported by an excellent staff, which includes Assistant Coaches John Shulman, Tracy Garrick, and his father, Dave Lebo and Administrative Assistant John Searby; and

WHEREAS, throughout the season, the Golden Eagles enjoyed the enthusiastic support of the administration, faculty, staff, students, and fans of Tennessee Technological University; and

WHEREAS, the Golden Eagles' fearless play garnered the respect of opposing coaches and teams and dispelled the myth that teams from mid-major conferences cannot compete with schools from the so-called "power" conferences; and

WHEREAS, the athletic excellence attained by this phenomenal basketball program is a tribute to the hard work and dedication of coaches and players alike and deserves special recognition; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we honor and commend the Tennessee Technological University Men's Basketball Team and Head Coach Jeff Lebo on the completion of yet another outstanding season, congratulate them upon reaching the Elite Eight of the NIT and wish them well in all their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.